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REPORTAGE ON OPENING OF NINTH OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Electoral, Maritime Problems

PY222246 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1731 GMT 22 Oct 79 PY

[By Gerardo Irusta]

[Excerpts] La Paz, 22 Oct (LATIN)--The OAS today opened its Ninth General Assembly at which Bolivia's maritime problem and the election of the OAS secretary general appear to be the most important issues.

The Panamanian Foreign Minister Carlos Ozores, who spoke in the name of all visiting delegations, mentioned the maritime problem in a very vague manner, indicating at the end of his speech that Bolivia is the heart which beats with the hope and expectation of all America, trusting in the justice of its cause.

During the preparatory meeting which preceded the opening, Chilean Ambassador Pedro Daza, who heads his country's delegation, reiterated his protest over the fact that the assembly's agenda included the discussion of the Bolivian maritime problem and repeated the remarks he had made when this issue was included in the agenda during the preparatory meetings in Washington.

At the preparatory meeting it was established that the tentative closing date of the assembly will be 31 October. Bolivian Foreign Minister Gustavo Fernandez was elected as chairman of the conference.

Sources close to the conference indicated that the election of the secretary general, originally scheduled for Thursday, could be advanced because it is feared that the electoral process could be protracted.

The Argentine Alejandro Orfila, current OAS secretary general, is trying for reelection against Dominican Foreign Minister Ramon Emilio Jimenez. Both candidates claim that they have the 14 votes which are the minimum necessary to win the election, but lately there have been rumors that neither of the two could obtain this number of votes; this could pave the way for a compromise candidate proposed by Venezuela.

According to other sources, Orfila plans to withdraw from the struggle if he fails to get the 14 votes he needs for his reelection in the first round of voting. These sources indicated that the current secretary general would view this as a vote of criticism against his performance as OAS secretary.

Dominican Outlines Campaign

PY201924 Paris AFP in Spanish 1715 GMT 20 Oct 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 20 Oct (AFP)--Vice Adm Ramon Emilio Jimenez, foreign minister of the Dominican Republic, said today at a press conference that the trend "toward the democratization of the continent should be reflected in my election as OAS secretary." Jimenez said that he was convinced that the democratic development in eight nations during the last 10 months is a symptom of what those countries may think regarding the importance of the highest administrative post of the organization.

The Dominican foreign minister characterized his candidacy as an attempt at renewal, contrasting with what would be a trend toward continuism, in the event Alejandro Orfila, the present secretary general, is reelected. Jimenez said it was difficult to predict the result of the ballot, but he believed that not only most of the Caribbean countries but also many South American nations would vote for him.

He asserted: "As for the United States, it is a democratic nation which has been waging an intensive campaign in defense of human rights in the last few years. Since it is more a country rather than a person who is elected for the secretariat, its vote should be obvious."

In reply to a question regarding his program as secretary, he stated that it would be one of the renewal and dynamization of the OAS, which should accelerate the solution of problems in the political field, as in the case of Nicaragua.

He added: "In the field of economics, the OAS should take action regarding the rights and duties of states and put its weight behind a better economic deal for the countries of the organization on the part of the highly developed nations."

He also said that the OAS is the best place to deal with the problem of Bolivia's landlocked situation, since the organization has shown its capacity for effective negotiation as proven in the talks on the Panama Canal and in the case of Nicaragua. He asserted: "The organization has enormous moral power."

He concluded by referring to the relations between the OAS and Cuba, stating that the matter is constantly being discussed within the organization and that a solution should be found. He added, however: If I were elected secretary general it would not be my task to take any action whatsoever since the matter is within the jurisdiction of the council.

Jimenez Speech at Assembly

PY230219 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2238 GMT 22 Oct 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 22 Oct (LATIN)--Speaking during the first session of the OAS General Assembly inaugurated here today, Dominican Foreign Minister Ramon Emilio Jimenez proclaimed himself today as a candidate of the continent's democratic regimes for the post of OAS general secretary.

Vice Adm Jimenez did not expressly present himself as a candidate in opposition to the current secretary, Argentine Alejandro Orfila, but his entire speech could be construed as a program for the renewal of the OAS.

At the same time, the Argentine delegation kept busy in efforts to hold the election for secretary general tomorrow rather than on Thursday as initially scheduled. Argentine sources said that, in view of the tension which that election was creating, it seemed advisable to have the issue disposed of as soon as possible in order to facilitate the assembly in moving on to other items on the agenda.

Jimenez said: We should not keep our democratic feelings within ourselves, but show them in our actions. We cannot be democrats one day, not democrats the next day and democrats again the following day. We must always be democrats.

He then added that we have seen, not without horror, how hundreds of our fellow men suffer persecution, imprisonment and exile. In some parts of our richly endowed continent, the right to dissent is still being bought at the high price of life itself. In this forum, just as we deplore the violence from below, we should also condemn the violence from above. Just as political terrorism must be wiped out, so must governmental terrorism, wherever it raises its head.

Vice Admiral Jimenez said: My country, in keeping with its announced positions, is on the side of democracy, respects human rights and seeks change and renewal. Turnover in the administration of the organization seems to be the best way to insure change and renewal. The geographically small and subregional countries should have the opportunity to demonstrate their capacity to contribute to the good management of this magnificent instrument for peace which is the OAS, Jimenez claimed.

As Jimenez ended his speech, no decision had been made as to the date for the election which Argentina was trying to move up.

Venezuelan 'Compromise' Candidate

PY230220 Paris AFP in Spanish 2055 GMT 22 Oct 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 22 Oct (AFP)--Should the reelection of Alejandro Orfila and the election of Dominican Ramon Emilio Jimenez fail, Venezuela proposes Andres Aguilar, chairman of the OAS Inter-American Human Rights Commission, as its candidate for the post of OAS secretary general. The information was provided by Andres Aguilar himself.

Aguilar explained that the Venezuelan Government has decided to present his candidacy if no consensus is reached on either of the two present candidates for the post.

But would Venezuela withdraw its candidate for the Inter-American Development Bank presidency in exchange for the OAS Secretariat?

Aguilar replied that the choice cannot yet be made because it would be no more than speculation, and it is better to await developments.

Bolivian President's Address

PY221842 Paris AFP in Spanish 1720 GMT 22 Oct 79 PY

[Excerpts] La Paz, 22 Oct (AFP)--Bolivian President Walter Guevara Arze today made a call to end the arms race in America. Addressing the 27 member-countries at the opening of the Ninth OAS General Assembly, Guevara Arze also pointed out the organization's responsibility to solve Bolivia's landlocked problem, and stated that Bolivia "will return to the OAS as many times as may be necessary" to achieve its aspiration of having an outlet to the sea.

Speaking as interim president of a nation which established democracy only 2 and 1/2 months ago after years of military regimes, Guevara condemned the arms race as incompatible with the "current political situation of the pluralist policy in international relations."

He labeled as "no less than an aberration" the military expenditures by developing countries "whose first obligation is to solve the problems of food, health, education and the material and spiritual well-being of all peoples."

Guevara began his speech by stressing the achievements of the Andean Pact, which, he said, "is giving a stimulating example of what a group of countries can do when they decide to act as a unit." He cited not only the economic achievements of the group, but also the contribution of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela in finding a solution to the Nicaraguan problems as well,and in forming a new structure for the nonalined countries. He added: "In the ideological-political area we the smaller nations do not want to continue as simple pawns of the great world powers, and we have the right to deal individually and collectively with one or another in compliance with our own exclusive interests. This is what we understand by nonalinement."

Further on Guevara Speech

PY221900 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1714 GMT 22 Oct 79 PY

[Text] Bolivian President Walter Guevara Arze made a fervent appeal today for a Bolivian outlet to the sea when he opened the Ninth OAS General Assembly here. Guevara also praised the Andean Pact of which Bolivia is a member along with Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela, by noting the recent political action this bloc has assumed despite the fact that it was created on economic bases.

The president also deplored the announced sale of strategic U.S. tin reserves by stating that it will mean a severe blow to the Bolivian economy which is dependent on the mining industry.

He said: In my capacity as president of the Bolivian nation I am obliged to assert to all nations of the Americas that Bolivia will never renounce an outlet to the sea. We will persist for 1 year, for 10 years or for 100 years if necessary. He added that Bolivia's landlocked situation is a multilateral issue because we are something of a seismograph of the Americas, and the anguish of Bolivia will end up being the anguish of the Americas unless the issue is solved in a serious and just manner.

The president added: We believe that the OAS is the proper forum with the moral and legal support needed to hold an open and positive dialog regarding the Bolivian sea issue. He warned the Bolivian people, however, that they should not hope for any spectacular results from the OAS conference on this issue.

The Bolivian sea issue was the second point of Guevara's speech. At the beginning of his speech he noted that the Andean Pact is giving an excellent example of what a group of nations can do when they are determined to act as a unit. He stated: Recently, the presence of the Andean Pact was made evident at the continental level in the Nicaraguan issue and in the proposal of a new program for the nonalined group; these had an international impact.

Guevara gave a brief summary of his country's recent political process by noting that his government has full support from both the political sector and the armed forces, but that it is confronting serious economic difficulties. He added: And it is precisely under these circumstances that the United States has announced the sale of its strategic tin reserves. This means a hard blow to the Bolivian economy which is based on the mining industry.

It is difficult to understand--within the most elemental sense of equity, not to mention Americanist feelings--how a resolution which seriously harms a friendly country can be adopted--a country which with its efforts, its work, and its sacrifices in times of peril for the democracies of the world, contributed to produce that tin whose reserves have now become a threatening weapon for its economy and for the well-being of its people. Guevara added: It is hoped that the U.S. administration will find a way to alleviate the harmful effects of the authorization which the U.S. Senate has put in its hands.

Panamanian Foreign Minister's Address

PY221648 Paris AFP in Spanish 1602 GMT 22 Oct 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 22 Oct (AFP)--Panama today thanked all American nations for their contribution in concluding the new agreements on the Panama Canal.

"Panama's victory has demonstrated that success is within the reach of all countries, even the weak ones, when the struggle of all nations finds support in international solidarity," Panamanian Foreign Minister Carlos Ozores T. said at the opening of the Ninth OAS General Assembly.

Speaking in the name of all delegations in response to the welcoming speech by Bolivian President Walter Guevara Arze, Ozores stressed the significance of the fact that the top organization of the inter-American system is meeting in Bolivia at this moment. He said: "We cannot leave unstressed our great satisfaction at being in your country at this very moment in which a vigorous process of democratization which awakens the interest and affection of America and the world is being implemented." He added: "Our presence in Bolivia, Mr President, seeks to express our faith in the efforts the Bolivian people are making to institutionalize freedom and democracy in your country."

According to the interpretation of observers as a reference to the Bolivian landlocked problem, extensively discussed by the Bolivian president a few minutes earlier, the Panamanian foreign minister cited the new Panama Canal treaties implemented exactly 21 days ago as "an example for the international community that the most difficult problems and the most crucial conflicts can be solved peacefully and with dignity through the implementation of the mechanisms of peaceful solution provided for in the charters of the OAS and of the United Nations."

Ozores on Bolivian Claims

PY201429 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1916 GMT 19 Oct 79 PY

[Excerpt] La Paz, 19 Oct (LATIN)--The Bolivian claim regarding its landlocked status will receive massive support and solidarity during the Ninth OAS General Assembly, Panamanian Foreign Minister Carlos Ozores declared today.

The minister added that the inter-American meeting, which opens Monday in this capital, comes at an important moment for Bolivia: the commemoration of the centennial of the loss of its seacoast.

Ozores, who arrived here to participate in the assembly, indicated that the Panamanian Government is totally identified with the Bolivian cause and recalled Bolivia's similar support of Panama in reclaiming its sovereignty over the Canal Zone.

Nicaraguan Delegate's Statement

PY222359 Paris AFP in Spanish 2222 GMT 22 Oct 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 22 Oct (AFP)--Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto stated here today that "the revolutionary process of our country has the unanimous support of the Nicaraguan people."

He added: "Your political decision has obtained the respect and soliarity of the international community and the Nicaraguan people are finally seeing the results of their initial efforts in the great task of national reconstruction."

D'Escoto also stressed his government's and people's support for Bolivia's maritime quest because "Latin American justice and solidarity must be rule in this hemisphere."

The Nicaraguan foreign minister did not make a clear statement about his government's vote in the coming election for the post of OAS secretary general, which is being sought by the Argentine Alejandro Orfila and the Dominican Ramon Emilio Jimenez.

D'Escoto Criticizes OAS

PA222307 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto has criticized the OAS, noting that the positive steps needed for its transformation can only culminate with the creation of a Latin American organization. In statements to the news agency PRENSA LATINA, D'Escoto explained he is attending the Ninth OAS Assembly, in La Paz, Bolivia, because Nicaragua is a member of the organization and is willing to do all it can to revitalize it.

He indicated that the OAS has no prestige among Latin American peoples, adding that for the exploited and impoverished majorities it is an organization at the service of U.S. interests. He also said it is illogical to have the United States participating in this organization when an institution of this nature should be defending and upholding Latin American interests against U.S. abuses.

Chilean Envoy on Guevara Speech

PY230039 Paris AFP in Spanish 2124 GMT 22 Oct 79 PY

[Excerpts] La Paz, 22 Oct (AFP)--Chile cannot recognize the OAS as a valid forum for discussion of Bolivia's landlocked situation. "Should the OAS overstep its area of competence, we will respond as we need to," Chilean Ambassador Pedro Daza told AFP in commenting on the speech delivered today by Bolivian President Walter Guevara Arze.

Daza went on record during the closed door preparatory session that Chile rejects the OAS's right to intervene in a purely bilateral question.

Questioned if he would walk out of the OAS General Assembly, Daza replied: "I repeat that we have not yet adopted any decision, but if the OAS trespasses its legal boundaries, we will then make a decision."

Anti-U.S. Demonstrations

PY230024 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1505 GMT 22 Oct 79 PY

[Excerpts] La Paz, 22 Oct (LATIN)--The presence in this capital of U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance has provoked protests here and in other cities against the planned sale of strategic tin reserves. News reports received from Potosi, a department capital 500 km south of here, stated that a student demonstration took place last night with incidents such as the burning of a U.S. flag.

Labor and student groups are preparing a series of demonstrations here to repudiate the sales while Vance is here to represent his country at the Ninth OAS General Assembly which began today.

Student Protest at Assembly Site

PY230035 Paris AFP in Spanish 0025 GMT 23 Oct 79 PY

[Text] La Paz, 22 Oct (AFP)--Approximately 200 university students tonight staged a demonstration in front of the site of the OAS General Assembly, which is being held here, to protest the presence of U.S. representatives at the assembly. The students carried anti-American signs and chanted slogans such as "How lovely, how lovely, let us expell the 'Yankees' and put the workers in power."

Police antiriot forces remained alert but did not take any action because the demonstration was staged without incidents.

MINISTER SAID FARHAT DENIES CABINET RESHUFFLE

PY222354 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 22 Oct 79 PY

[Text] Social Communications Minister Said Farhat today denied press reports on a possible cabinet reshuffle. He conceded, however, that Health Minister Castro Lima had submitted a letter to President Figueiredo conveying his desire to be relieved from his post.

[Begin Farhat recording] A few days ago Minister Castro Lima conveyed to President Joao Figueiredo his desire to leave the Health Ministry in view of insurmountable personal reasons which the minister outlined to the president. While President Figueiredo studies the matter, he recommended that Minister Castro Lima remain in his post until a decision is made on his letter. [end recording]

Concerning criticism raised by the party reorganization proposal submitted to National Congress, Minister Farhat said: [Begin recording] I must say that I discussed the party reorganization proposal with several persons during the weekend and I was surprised to find that many of its critics have not even read it yet. We regard criticism as a normal occurrence. We do not expect this proposal, or any other reform bill, to elicit consensus from the National Congress. [end recording]

PARTY REORGANIZATION BILL ELICITS REACTION IN CONGRESS

PY201413 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 20 Oct 79 PY

[Text] The presidential message announcing the reorganization of political parties was read in Congress **yesterday** in a tumultuous atmosphere. The opposition threatened to leave the plenary session to prevent a quorum, but the leaders of the National Renewal Alliance [ARENA] blocs managed to secure 66 deputies and 16 senators, thus enabling the session to go on.

In reaction to the bill submitted by the executive, Deputy Ulysses Guimaraes, president of the Brazilian Democratic Movement [MDB], confirmed that his party will go to court to prevent liquidation. Discussing Guimaraes' statements, Social Communications Minister Said Farhat said that Guimaraes has the right to go to court according to the constitution. He added that the right to go to court is characteristic of democratic societies.

Senator Tancredo Neves affirmed that the bill submitted by the executive simplifies nothing. On the contrary, he said, it creates new difficulties for the creation of new parties.

Gastao Muller, ARENA senator for Mato Grosso, believes that the bill poses no obstacles for the organization of the Independent Party which already has six senators and 42 deputies.

Justice Minister Petronio Portella believes that the MDB will be unable to subsist even if it changes its name because the requirements of the new law on political parties change the format of the voters' registration cards. Portella added that a new item included in the bill shortly before its submission to Congress is the temporary permit granted to parliamentary blocs to operate along the same lines as parties in the process of organizing themselves. According to the justice minister, there are no restrictions for the organization of such blocs, although they will have to be tied to a party in the process of organization.

BCP LEADER CARLOS PRESTES RETURNS FROM EXILE

PA210028 Paris AFP in Spanish 2309 GMT 20 Oct 79 PA

[Excerpt] Rio de Janeiro, 20 Oct (AFP)--Approximately 3,000 people went to Rio de Janeiro International Airport today to greet Luis Carlos Prestes, veteran leader of the Brazilian Communist Party (pro-Soviet), who returned to Brazil today.

Prestes returned to Brazil after living in exile in Moscow for 8 years. He was benefited by the amnesty proclaimed in late August by the government of Gen Joao Baptista Figuereido. He was one of the first passengers to disembark from the plane which brought him to Rio from Paris, where he spent his last 24 hours in exile.

In his first statements after returning to Brazil Prestes condemned the maneuvers to divide the opposition and defended the legalization of the Communist Party, stressing that a democracy which does not permit the participation of communists is a pseudodemocracy. According to Prestes, the maneuvers to divide the opposition do not benefit the regime, which was established in 1964 after the overthrow of the government of President Joao Goulart.

The veteran communist leader defended a broad, general and unlimited amnesty that will benefit all those who were punished by the extraordinary measures that existed between 1964 and 1978. He said the amnesty proclaimed by the government was a victory for the people and the country's democratic forces.

Prestes was accompanied by his wife and was carrying a bouquet of red flowers.

EXILED FORMER ADMIRAL ARRESTED ON RETURN TO COUNTRY

PY191225 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 19 Oct 79 PY

[Text] Former Admiral Candido da Motta Aragao, commander of the Marine Corps during the Joao Goulart government, was arrested on arriving at Galeao Airport from Caracas where he had been exiled. Relatives and members of the Brazilian Amnesty Committee, who had been there to welcome him, could not get near the former admiral.

COSTA RICAN FOREIGN MINISTER ENDS VISIT

PY201252 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 0200 GMT 20 Oct 79 PY

[Text] Brasilia--The Costa Rican foreign minister stated here today that his country could operate as Brazil's base for penetration into Central American and Caribbean markets. Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier explained that Costa Rica is currently building a free export-import and industrial zone where Brazilian enterprises will be able to install factories and warehouses for products destined to neighboring nations. The Costa Rican foreign minister today ended his official 2-day visit to Brazil.

BRIEFS

COMMUNIST'S DAUGHTER RETURNS--(Anita Leocadia), daughter of Luiz Carlos Prestes, secretary general of the Brazilian Communist Party, has returned to Brazil from Paris. The following exiles returned with her: Vladimir Palmeira, (Carlos Bainer), and (Jose Cortes Rollenberg). [Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 6 Oct 79 PY]

JOINT COMMISSION WITH BRAZIL MEETS IN SANTIAGO

PY191152 Santiago Chile Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 0520 GMT 19 Oct 79 PY

[Text] The fifth meeting of the Chilean-Brazilian special coordinating commission took place in Santiago from 15-18 October. The Chilean delegation was presided over by Brig Gen Enrique Valdes Puga, deputy minister of foreign relations, and the Brazilian delegation was headed by Joao Clemente Baena Soares, foreign relations secretary general.

During this meeting the two parties exchanged opinions on a variety of aspects related to bilateral trade, finance, scientific and technical cooperation, cultural cooperation, social security, transport and tourism.

With regard to bilateral trade, it was agreed that its growth rate, though significant, is still far below the potential of the two economies. The parties also evaluated the problems which could be affecting this trade and stated that they have the best intentions to overcome whatever disagreement may exist without detriment to the economic development policies which are being conducted by the two governments.

The parties confirmed the excellent cooperation in the field of land transport and with regard to tourism they decided that the official tourism organizations of the two countries should sign a cooperation agreement which would increase the flow of tourists from third countries to Brazil and Chile.

MILITARY JUDGE PROMISES TO PUNISH ILLTREATMENT OF PRISONERS

PY162102 Paris AFP in Spanish 0138 GMT 13 Oct 79 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 12 Oct (AFP)--It was reported here today that Chilean military justice will give prison terms to several military men accused of "proven illtreatment" of detained persons under various circumstances.

Gen Enrique Morel, military judge and commander of the Santiago Garrison, reported that these decisions have been submitted to the military court which will have to give the final verdict regarding the sentences.

Morel said: "The military is not soft on the military, because members of the armed forces and the police are subject to punishment like any other citizen who commits a crime." He added that a total of 76 military men have been given sentences by military justice in the last 3 years.

BRIEFS

VISITING EGYPTIAN UNDER SECRETARY--Adil Dahir, under secretary for tourism of Egypt, is visiting Chile as part of a Latin American tour which encompasses several countries. Today the Egyptian official held a press conference to discuss the agreement on cooperation in the field of tourism that he signed yesterday with Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos. Among other things he indicated that efforts will be made to have direct charter flights from Cairo to Santiago and vice versa. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 17 Oct 79 PY]

UN OFFICIAL DEPARTS WITHOUT SEEING LAINO

PY201442 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 20 Oct 79 p 19 PY

[Text] Francois Fouinat, member of the UN High Commission for the Southern Cone, returned yesterday to that organization's headquarters in Buenos Aires. He stayed in our country briefly and tried unsuccessfully to obtain permission from the Interior Ministry to meet with Dr [Domingo] Laino in Mbuyapey. Meanwhile, members of the International League for Human Rights, also a UN subsidiary, remain in the country.

SUPREME COURT TURNS DOWN APPEAL IN LAINO CASE

PY191357 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 16 Oct 79 p 8 PY

[Excerpt] The Supreme Court this morning turned down the appeal which--on the grounds of unconstitutionality--Laino's lawyer submitted against a ruling of the Supreme Court by which it rejected the plea for habeas corpus submitted on behalf of Laino, currently confined in Mbuyapey.

A portion of the ruling issued this morning by lawyers Juan Felix Morales, Justo Pucheta Ortega, Jose Alberto Correa, Federico Masi and Francisco Pusineri Oddone states: "The ruling of this court fully abides by Article 79 of the national constitution; therefore, its legal nature is indisputable from the juridical point of view. The judge must always abide by the law in his rulings, according to Article 60 of the code on civil and commercial procedures. That is, he must implement the law and not legislate, since this latter power belongs specifically to the legislative branch."

Laino's wife, Rafaela Guanes, who returned yesterday from Mbuyapey, said that "Laino's confinement has all the characteristics of imprisonment. Not only is he not free to communicate, but is even unable to speak to his lawyer and relatives." She also said that the local officials refer to him as "dangerous, bolshevik, communist etc."

LAINO'S LAWYER FILES ANOTHER HABEAS CORPUS PLEA

PY222342 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 22 Oct 79 p 7 PY

[Excerpt] Lawyer Juan Manuel Florentin filed another habeas corpus plea on behalf of Domingo Laino before the Supreme Court today. Among other things, the lawyer asked the Supreme Court to travel to Mbuyapey in order to check on the status of the confined opposition leader. He also requested the drawing up of the appropriate act and an order for Laino's release.

In his plea, lawyer Florentin indicated that "Laino has been under arrest in Mbuyapey since 20 September," and that "he is sleeping under permanent guard and cannot be visited by anybody, least of all by his lawyers who are professionals of the bar." The plea adds that "since the state of siege does not apply to Mbuyapey, the measures which restrict Laino's freedom are obviously arbitrary and go against Articles 59, 61 and 62 of the national constitution.

ROYO REVOKES EDUCATION REFORM LAW IN ASSEMBLY ADDRESS

PA230314 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 0024 GMT 23 Oct 79 PA

[Speech to the nation by Panamanian President Aristides Royo from the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives--live]

[Excerpts] Mr Blas Celis, president of the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives, honorable vice presidents, ministers of state, directors of autonomous organizations, honorable representatives, guests: We have come tonight to give the country a message in the presence of our government and before the National Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives. We do so before the assembly, the popular representative organization that has existed in our country since the initiation of the 1972 constitution. It has great powers and great responsibilities and the National Legislative Council also has certain powers and responsibilities and a great legislative task regarding educational activities, which is the topic to which I will refer tonight.

First, I want to point out before this assembly that a government such as ours, essentially democratic, which permits the free exercise of public liberties, specifically political activities, a prudent, tolerant government, is a government which is disposed at all times--it has been and will be--to maintain a dialog with the Panamanian community, to maintain a frank and sincere dialog with all Panamanians. What the government is not disposed to is to allow the attempted destruction of popular representation. [applause]

[I have come] to tell all of you and all Panamanians, 90 percent of whom elected you on 6 August of this year, that the government which I am honored to preside over is always willing to negotiate. The government wants to improve itself, to perfect its institutions, to try to advance, to make a better government and to have better institutions. However, as long as we are in power we will never allow insurrection, the disruption of public order, riots, coups, or anything which is not democratic and does not result from the holding of free elections or the free exercise of suffrage. Those are the things which you as the popular power, which we as the executive power and which the people as a whole must preserve and safeguard.

Tonight I would like to address all Panamanians and give them some of my impressions and explain why we are here again, why we have come again and wish to speak with housewives, parents, students, with all working Panamanians, with all people who live in this dearly beloved country and who have children.

I want to tell them that we have had many problems in the negotiations with the teachers' leaders. We have continually sought to maintain a dialog. However, this dialog and these negotiations, up until the time that I am speaking to you, have not yielded results in many aspects, despite the fact that the government has expressed its willingness not only for dialog but to make effective improvements within the national reality. We have had an open mind concerning the revision and fulfillment of Law 47 of 1946, the organic education law. The government has had a firm, open attitude regarding the educational reform, despite the fact that our negotiators have sat patiently day after day during the 56-day-long strike striving to reach a conciliatory settlement with the negotiators. However, it has not been possible up until this moment. And since this path of dialog and understanding has not been achieved, we have decided 11 days after the 11th of October, to again address all Panamanians and offer additional explanations.

Many efforts have been made. We sincerely believe that in the face of these efforts the negotiators have been offended and insulted daily by the communications media. They have been called liars. They have been accused of being prepotent, false and arrogant. Each new insult has hidden the real and authentic reasons, the real and veritable pronouncements, the efforts and conciliatory attitude of our government to try to find a realistic economic solution within the possibilities of our national life.

How different the attitude of our revolutionary, democratic, independent government toward the educators has been in 1979. There has not been a single repressive incident. No leaders or teachers have been jailed. There has not been a single incident restricting the free exercise of political liberties in our country. There has been an attitude of permissiveness. There has been an attitude of maximum flexibility. This attitude of 1979 has been quite different from the attitude of 1965 when tear gas was used against teachers who picketed for higher wages during President Diaz Ordaz's visit. They were not met by negotiations led by three state ministers, nor with offers of $31,671,000. They were met with sticks and tear gas. Between 15 and 20 teachers were arrested. Many Panamanian lawyers here remember the attitude of a judge who submitted a habeas corpus writ in favor of Clarence Beecher and who was dismissed as circuit judge. The judge who was dismissed by the government on that occasion is a venerated and honorable Supreme Court magistrate today.

We would like to say that many efforts have been made but they have been futile. We would now like to note what these efforts have been and what offers have been made by our government and take advantage of this occasion to tell the country what some of our solutions are.

In the first place, the people of Panama have been told through the communications media that the government was using delaying tactics so as not to confront the subject of the education reform because this government is bent on maintaining the educational reform. Here they are--and I once again refer to them--the proof, the recorded tapes. Here are the tapes containing statements by the three negotiators in which teachers' leaders were told that first of all, we wished to discuss the education reform. They repeatedly replied that this subject had to be discussed last. The truth, therefore, is not being told when it is said the government is hanging on to education reform and that we had no obvious intention of discussing the education reform.

The government pointed this out. It was said the government did not want to discuss Law 47 of 1946 either because it wanted to delay matters in order not to have to discuss wage demands. We are offering the teachers a 36.5 percent increase and we are offering professors an 18.3 percent increase. This, Gentlemen, amply exceeds the annual inflation rate, which amounts to about 7 percent. The salary increases given to educators in recent years have been gradually covering this inflation, which occurs every year in Panama and in all other countries. We are making an offer to the educators which seeks to amply cover [words indistinct] the annual inflation rate.

These are our final offers to the educators. They are our final offers. I again reiterate our offer on 11 October: step increases every 3 years beginning in 1980 and compliance with their request that these increases be given every 2 years after 1983.

To the 96 million balboas we are now adding over 31,370,000 balboas. Believe me, Gentlemen, we are in no position to offer a single cent more. We simply cannot do it. The philosopher Ortega y Gasset once said a ruler or a government is not distinguished exclusively by those things it resolves in the present, but also by those it resolves for the future. We are trying to make an offer to the educators which resolves their future monetary peoblem, but we are telling the rest of the country that we must be responsible now and also in the future. We are talking about salary offers. We are talking strictly about what we are in a position to give. We cannot give any more.

Regarding the subject of the educational reform, it has been said that we are intent on maintaining the educational reform, that we are clinging like a burning [work indistinct] to the educational reform because it is a reform introduced under this process--even though there has not been a single government in Panama that has not tried to implement reforms--and because we think that reform must be imposed no matter what. We will now prove to all citizens and all Panamanians that we are not clinging to that educational reform. We want all Panamanians to analyze national education. We are pleased to think that all Panamanians have great interest in their children's education. Today, we tell all Panamanian people that we have confidence in the wisdom of the Panamanian people, who have great aspirations and great concerns in discussing education. As proof that we are not clinging to the educational reform, this afternoon we signed, along with Education Minister Gustavo Garcia de Paredes, Executive Decree No 199, by which the educational reform is abolished. [applause]

Considering: That the national government has echoed the public interest manifested in the country in connection with the educational problems; that various sectors have specifically voiced their concern over the development of the educational reform; that it has been the permanent policy of the Education Ministry to consult all sectors connected with the educational process; that the educational system should reflect the values, principles and aspirations that regulate Panamanian society in a way that deserves the support of the national community; it is decreed:

Article 1. The various aspects of the educational reform are abolished.

Article 2. A commission will be organized representing the various sectors of the national community in order to analyze, study and make recommendations concerning the structuring of national education.

Article 3. Educational centers currently developing reform programs will abide next year by the provisions emanating from the recommendations proposed by the commission mentioned in Article 2.

Article 4. The provisions resulting from the analysis of the national education program, adjusted to the needs of contemporary society, will be implemented nationally.

Article 5. This decree also abolishes Decree No 2 of 14 February 1975, as well as all legal provisions contrary to it and will go into effect from the moment it is sanctioned; that is, as of today.

To be communicated and published.

[Signed] President of the Republic and Education Minister

This shows our government's desire that all Panamanians from all sectors participate through the various organizations in a discussion of that important national topic, the education of all our children.

We would now like to refer to the problem of the payment of back wages. It is true, and we will admit this here, that we have not paid the salaries of the educators involved in the strike. There were various reasons.

The main or primary political reason was that we did not wish to set the precedent of the government continuing to pay wages for work not done during a strike. We would be setting a bad precedent.

Secondly, we took into account the fact that instead of calling for a dialog, the government was given a 48-hour deadline. Either the government changed its position of there would be a strike for an indefinite period.

And thirdly, as the constitution itself says--and not the constitution of 1972, but the constitution of 1946--education is a public service. Someday we are going to have to establish good regulations for the various public services--education, health--in order that they may never be abandoned by the people who are exercising those sacred missions. [applause]

For these political reasons it is true that the payment of the wages for the period of the strike was not decreed. There was also a juridical reason. There is no legal provision which authorizes a government to pay teachers or government officials who are on strike. And it should never be forgotten that government officials can do only that which is expressly permitted, unlike private employees, who can do anything that is not expressly prohibited.

Our government, as a reflection of this good will, is instructing the comptroller general of the republic to proceed immediately to pay all back wages to the teachers [applause] regardless of whether they go to work. The payment, teachers, will be made without discounting a single day, a single hour. I repeat that this payment is not dependent on whether you return to work.

But now I wish to speak to you about that matter, teachers who are listening to me. I wish to speak about that matter to the parents who are in their homes and to the students who have been inactive for many days, and those students include the children of us all. And those parents also include the mothers who are listening to us. We ask those teachers, to whom the government is appealing on the basis of good will, to return to classes on Wednesday. [applause]

We ask parents to send their children to school on Wednesday. There will be no risk. Let them not be fooled by the threat circulating that it was risky to send their children to school. Neither the National Guards, the Panamanian people nor the parents will permit risks of any kind. [applause]

We ask students to go to classes on Wednesday. We repeat to the students, to the parents and to the teachers who are listening to us at this time, that we are running a very serious risk of losing the school year. We have given more than enough evidence of the government's good will in seeking a solution that is peaceful and satisfactory to all Panamanians.

For this reason, we appeal to your good sense, to your sense of patriotism, to your Panamanian nationalism and to the parents' great concern for their children, for teachers, students and parents to obtain a felicitous return to classes on Wednesday of this week.

There are points left for discussion. There will be points on the composition of the committee to review Law 47 of 1946. There will be points on the composition of the committee which will discuss and analyze national education. Those are no less important aspects, but at this time they should not be the vital, conditional or obstructive points for the return to classes. All these points can be discussed and let us hope that they will be discussed without stubborness and without discrimination against the participation of specific organizations. We hope there will be broad and open committees that will give all organizations and all good Panamanians the opportunity to express their views on educational affairs.

Finally, I would like to tell the Panamanian people that this government has been, is and will be tolerant. It has been, is and will be democratic. However, neither tolerance or democracy means anarchy or the lack of government. They do not mean that public order is going to be disrupted in Panama. They do not mean that the rights of others are going to be harmed. As the great philosopher Kant once said, law is an aggreggate of norms which permits coexistence between the freedom of some and the freedom of the rest.

Let us unite in our struggle so we can work, because there have already been disruptions of public order through which some, by abusing citizen rights, have tried to prevent other citizens from earning their daily bread. This government will not permit those attempts against freedom of industry and work. Let those who know to whom I am referring know that we are not going to permit attempts against the established power. They can do everything legally, orderly and democratically. We are not going to permit subversion, chaos and the division of the Panamanian family. Thank you very much.

MISSING PDC ACTIVIST APPEARS 'SAFE AND SOUND'

PA230027 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Chiriqui rancher Celso Antonio Feijoo Romero has reappeared safe and sound and has returned to his normal activities. This was announced by leaders of the Christian Democratic Party, Ricardo Arias Calderon and Jose Antonio Sosa Rodriguez, who were in Chiriqui investigating Feijoo's disappearance.

Arias Calderon and Sosa Rodriguez explained that on 15 October, when a detachment of 75 National Guardsmen and a helicopter arrived at his ranch, Los Limones, in Alanje District, Feijoo feared for his freedom and personal safety in view of his participation in guerrilla activities in 1968-69. He managed to escape and stayed in hiding until he was able to obtain basic guarantees. Arias Calderon and Sosa Rodriguez added that Feijoo's wife, children and employees were held for several hours and Feijoo's property was searched from 12 to 15 October. No signs of his participation in an alleged arms contraband scheme were uncovered.

The Christian Democrats stated that Marcelino Marzo Guerra, 20, who was arrested on Feijoo's ranch, was mistreated while imprisoned and that the National Guard will take internal disciplinary measures.

Arias Calderon and Sosa Rodriguez were able to confirm yesterday that Feijoo was safe and sound in the David Bishopric in the presence of Msgr Daniel Nunez. Through the Christian Democrats, Feijoo expressed his appreciation to the people and organizations that showed concern for his whereabouts.

Arias Calderon and Sosa Rodriguez noted that Lt Col Ruben Dario Paredes, on behalf of the National Guard, showed great interest in solving the case and has affirmed that Celso Feijoo and his family, as well as Marzo Guerra and his family, can conduct their personal and social activities without fear and can exercise their full rights as citizens.

BRIEFS

ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFC AGREEMENTS--The Assembly of Corregimiento Representatives has approved the three agreements Panama has signed with Costa Rica, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia. Under the agreement with Costa Rica, economic cooperation with that country will be increased, regional standards of living will be improved and ties between our two nations will be expanded. The scientific and technical agreement signed with Bulgaria seeks to promote trade. [Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 Oct 79 PA]

COSTA RICA

HUBER MATOS ARRIVES; MET BY CARAZO, FIGUERES

PA221701 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Oct 79 PA

[Excerpt] After long hours of waiting at Juan Santamaria International Airport, a large crowd of Cuban residents in Costa Rica greeted the 31 political prisoners released by the Cuban Government. They arrived at 0220 along with their relatives. It was a dramatic scene as the Cubana de Aviacion jet landed with a total of 105 Cubans aboard, including the released prisoners.

Shortly after leaving the plane and following greetings from President Rodrigo Carazo, former Commander Huber Matos was reunited with his family. Visibly moved, he addressed the world for the first time since his captivity began 20 years ago. He said he wished everyone could understand the mixed emotions he felt at that moment, having to leave his country under the circumstances and arriving in this country, which so generously accepted him after having done so much to help in getting him out of the Castroite prison.

I want to stress, he said, that my gratitude to the president and people of Costa Rica is that of a man who clearly understands the value of generosity. I am fully aware of the significance of the attitude of the Costa Rican Government in getting us out of prison. I have traveled on a Cuban plane as a Costa Rican citizen, Huber Matos added.

Jose Figueres, former Costa Rican president and former companion of Huber Matos in the Sierra Maestra campaign, was present at the airport along with other political leaders.

Matos appeared tired and somewhat nervous at finding himself free again, although his face showed satisfaction. Matos was released yesterday after completing a 20-year sentence imposed by the communist government of Fidel Castro on October 1959 for high treason. His liberation and that of 30 other political prisoners was achieved following long negotiations with the Cuban Government. The Costa Rican Government extended transit visas for all prisoners and their relatives who will establish residence in the United States.

Matos Tours Havana

PA221701 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Oct 79 PA

[Excerpts] Havana--Following his release after 20 years in a Cuban prison, former Cuban revolution commander Huber Matos decided to tour the streets of Havana in a 1950 automobile, accompanied by his cousins and escorted by an Interior Ministry vehicle. Matos expressed this desire shortly after breakfast, a few hours following his release. Matos appears in good health for a 50-year old man.

COLOMBIAN GUERRILLA BROTHERS RELEASED FROM DETENTION

PA201411 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Immigration officials of the Public Security Ministry and Foreign Ministry yesterday at 1700 released four Colombian brothers who were being held in general detention. They are Jose Gabriel, Ramon, Pablo and Jorge Armando Monge Benavides, who arrived here on 2 October after seeking asylum at the Costa Rican Embassy in Colombia.

It has been reported Cuba would not accept them. The possibility that Nicaragua might welcome them is being studied. The Nicaraguan Government is writing a report to that effect.

In the meantime, a UN high commissioner is seeking a country to give asylum to the four Colombian guerrillas. They have stated their desire to go to Nicaragua to work in the national reconstruction.

EL SALVADOR

REVOLUTIONARY JUNTA ANNOUNCES CABINET APPOINTMENTS

PA230437 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0145 GMT 23 Oct 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 22 Oct (ACAN-EFE)--The new Salvadoran Government appointed 12 ministers today, thus initiating the government of the new regime which resulted from a military coup. The appointment of 15 civilians to under-secretary of state posts was also announced. There are no military figures in the new appointments of the revolutionary government junta presided over by Col Arnoldo Majano and Col Abdul Gutierrez who last week directed the military movement that overthrew former Salvadoran President Col Carlos Humberto Romero. The following are the new cabinet members:

Minister of the Presidency	Ruben Ignacio Zamora Rivas
Minister of Planning	Alberto Mart Deneque
Minister of Foreign Affairs	Hector Miguel Antonio Dada Hirezi
Minister of the Interior	Carlos Enrique Castro Garay
Minister of Justice	Luis Nelson Segovia
Minister of Finance	Ernesto Arbizu Mata
Minister of the Economy	Manuel Enrique Hinds
Minister of Education	Salvador Samayoa
Minister of Defense and Public Security	Jose Guillermo Garcia
Minister of Labor	Gabriel Gallegos Valdes
Minister of Health	Roberto Badia Montalvo
Minister of Public Works	Raul Valiente Argueta
Under Secretary of Planning	Mauricio Silva Arguello
Under Secretary of Foreign Affairs	Hector Oqueli Colindres
Under Secretary of the Interior	Rene Francisco Guerra y Guerra
Under Secretary of Justice	Fernando Augusto Mendez
Under Secretary of Finance	David Gustavo Soriano
Under Secretary of Revenues	Manuel Sevilla
Under Secretary of the Economy	Julio Linares
Under Secretary of Integration and International Economics	Oscar Menjivar
Under Secretary of Education	Roberto Antonio Barahona
Under Secretary of Culture, Youth and Sports	Antonio Martinez Uribe
Under Secretary of Labor	Victoria Marina de Aviles
Under Secretary of Agriculture	Jorge Alberto Villacorta
Under Secretary of Public Health	Rodolfo Giron Flores
Under Secretary of Public Works	Jorge Alberto Morales Guillen
Under Secretary of Housing and Urban Development	Hugo Navarrete.

Mario Humberto Claros was appointed private secretary to the presidency. Roberto Albergue Vives has been appointed special [particular] secretary. Alvaro Salazar Brenes is the new secretary of information and Alfredo del Transito Monge Menjivar is the attorney general for the poor [procurador general de pobres]. The only post still to be assigned is that of attorney general of the republic.

NEWLY APPOINTED FOREIGN MINISTER TO ATTEND OAS SESSION

PA221936 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1922 GMT 22 Oct 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 22 Oct (ACAN-EFE)--It was officially reported here today that the revolutionary government junta has appointed Hector Dada Hirezi as the new Salvadoran foreign minister.

It was also reported that Roberto Alvergue Vides was appointed plenipotentiary ambassador on official mission. Vides left for La Paz to participate in the Ninth OAS General Assembly which started today.

A government spokesman said the new Salvadoran foreign minister will leave for La Paz today to join his country's delegation in the OAS discussions.

JUNTA REPORTEDLY TO LIFT STATE OF SIEGE, CURFEW

PA221633 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1532 GMT 22 Oct 79 PA

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 22 Oct (ACAN-EFE)--It was reported today that in the next few hours El Salvador's revolutionary junta will lift the state of siege and the curfew imposed since leftwing guerrilla commandos staged an attack on the Mejicanos neighborhood here. The ruling revolutionary junta stated that this caretaker government will lay the groundwork and take steps so the people can express their will at the polls as soon as possible. It also stated that it will take immediate measures to end corruption in the country.

Colonel Majano, one of the two leaders of the coup d'etat that toppled President Romero on 15 October, told ACAN-EFE today that "the collusion of civilians and men in uniform in the previous administration's torture will be investigated." He concluded by saying: "Many of us are responsible for violence," meaning the mammoth amount of corruption in the past few years and its direct and indirect effects on violence.

ARMY KILLS FIVE FAPU DEMONSTRATORS

PA222102 Paris AFP in Spanish 2020 GMT 22 Oct 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 22 Oct (AFP)--The army killed five people today who were participating in a demonstration staged by the United Popular Action Front (FAPU) in northern San Salvador, despite the state of siege imposed by the new government junta.

As of this afternoon, the causes of the incident were still unknown. However, according to certain reports, several of the 300 demonstrators who participated in the event were armed. The demonstrators had placed barriers on the road leading from Soyapango, their starting point, to the downtown area of the capital, interrupting traffic.

According to observers, the march constituted an open challenge to the junta, which took power on Monday, and to the state of siege, which was established immediately thereafter. Under the state of siege, assemblies of more than three people are forbidden.

The FAPU is the political arm of the Armed Forces of National Resistance (FARN), one of the most radical clandestine groups in El Salvador.

On Friday the FARN occupied two radio stations in the capital to condemn the junta which, they said, had "betrayed the people's will," and called for a popular insurrection.

Today's incident occurred at a time when the new government is increasing its appeals over the radio for calm and moderation. It follows one of the most peaceful weekends El Salvador has experienced in recent months.

It was also noted that some 20 members of the People's Revolutionary Bloc (BPR) remain in the San Salvador Cathedral, which they occupied yesterday to defy the junta and the state of siege. They remain entrenched inside the building with the doors closed.

SHOOTING BREAKS OUT AT BPR GATHERING

PA222123 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1924 GMT 22 Oct 79 PA

[By Ricardo Ritter]

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 22 Oct (LATIN)--Heavy shooting broke the tense calm which reigned in this strife-torn country today when hundreds of extreme leftists met here to express their opposition to the new civilian-military government junta. Eyewitnesses told LATIN that dozens of people sought cover in various locations when the shooting, which lasted 10 minutes, began.

"I saw three policemen run to respond to the shooting," a woman whose office is located near the site of the incidents, told LATIN. "People ran from one place to another and the windows of houses and stores were closed," the woman added.

Initial reports indicated that the shooting occurred shortly after members of the People's Revolutionary Bloc (BPR) began to gather at a place known as El Reloj de las Flores, some 9 km from the local airport. Hundreds of men, women and children had walked to that location from Soyapango, some 4 km from downtown San Salvador.

According to Col Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova, the new National Guard director, the shooting began after security forces had been informed that the demonstrators were carrying two coffins filled with weapons.

Vides said: "We have seen that some subversive groups have modified their attitudes toward the new junta and we want to urge other subversive groups to follow that example and assist us in building a new El Salvador."

Meanwhile, a team of high-ranking International Red Cross officials began investigating the whereabouts of hundreds of political prisoners. The officials indicated that the junta, which replaced Gen Carlos Humberto Romero in a bloodless coup d'etat on 15 October, has authorized them to visit all the country's jails to look for some 300 political prisoners and missing persons. They added that the list was drawn up by church authorities and leaders of human rights organizations.

In a communique issued today, the BPR rejected the junta's call for a respite in their violent actions. The movement accused the new authorities of unleashing a new wave of repression against Salvadoran workers. The BPR added that the junta which has been imposed on our oppressed and exploited people is no better than the government it replaced. The BPR issued a call today for a demonstration to protest the death of Miguel Angel Ventura, one of its members who was killed during the week of violence which followed Romero's overthrow. Although the martial law in effect implies a ban on demonstrations, a junta spokesman said: "We will not interfere with the march if it is peaceful."

In statements today, the new National Guard chief mentioned, without naming the BPR, its refusal to agree to a truce, which the other two leftwing movements have announced. According to the BPR, during its march to bury Ventura, two air force helicopters were seen overflying the area where the shooting was occurring.

Meanwhile, junta members will continue meeting today with political leaders to discuss the measures they promised to carry out to reestablish democracy in this country after almost 50 years of military governments.

28 FEBRUARY PEOPLE'S LEAGUES SEIZE CHURCH

PA230233 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0157 GMT 23 Oct 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 22 Oct (ACAN-EFE)--The El Rosario Church in downtown San Salvador was occupied this evening by elements of the 28 February People's Leagues. They said their action was to reject the revolutionary government junta of El Salvador.

This group has changed its position continuously. In one instance it called for an insurrection and later supported "the army's progressive officers."

Meanwhile, the San Salvador Cathedral is still occupied by the People's Revolutionary Bloc, a leftist group that has also ejected the revolutionary junta.

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION DENOUNCES VIOLATIONS

PA222332 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Oct 79 PA

[Text] The Salvadoran Human Rights Commission has charged that between Tuesday and Wednesday last week repressive forces killed more than 100 people in that Central American country.

At a news conference representatives of that Salvadoran organization said they have testimonies that the National Guard killed over 100 people while evacuating 3 cities occupied following the military coup that overthrew Gen Carlos Humberto Romero.

According to Salvadoran exiles in Costa Rica, the disappearance of a large number of public leaders in the days following the military coup has also been denounced. Their names will be released in the next few days.

Meanwhile, the Farabundo Marti Popular Liberation Forces have reiterated their intention to continue their military and political struggle to establish a revolutionary government that responds to the people's interests. According to a communique released by this guerrilla organization, the overthrow of Carlos Humberto Romero's regime is another of the many maneuvers that have occurred in El Salvador, aimed only at stopping the people's struggle for liberation based on sacrifice.

ARCHBISHOP LABELS MILITARY INSURRECTION 'LEGITIMATE'

PA221510 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1748 GMT 21 Oct 79 PA

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 21 Oct (ACAN-EFE)--In his homily during the Sunday Mass at the Sacred Heart Church here, San Salvador Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero stated that the military insurrection that overthrew the government of Gen Carlos Humberto Romero was legitimate.

Monsignor Romero warned the country's leftists that a violent insurrection is not correct and told them that they lacked political maturity.

He expressed disapproval of the actions that the Revolutionary People's Army and the 28 February People's Leagues had been promoting over the past few days. He praised the truce and the change of attitude that the two groups finally reached on Friday.

Monsignor Romero affirmed that the armed forces proclamation looks like a program which meets the aspirations of the people but added that "we did not expect promises but actions. Since there are no actions and they are speaking of a government of the people, we expect a frank dialog."

The archbishop also said that the members of the government junta included persons whom he trusted but that he was not the one to approve them. It was up to the people to judge the spirit and efficiency of the junta. He urged the new government never to act against the interests of the people.

GUATEMALA

COUNTRY READY FOR TRIPARTITE TALKS ON BELIZE

PY230247 La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 22 Oct 79 PY

[Text] Guatemala is prepared to participate in a tripartite negotiation to find a solution for the Belize problem, Ambassador (Arturo Ponciano) stated here today. This diplomat is a member of the Guatemalan delegation to the Ninth OAS Assembly.

The Belize problem will be discussed during the meeting and a lengthy report will be submitted to the committee for (?legal) and political affairs.

HONDURAS

CLAMP-DOWN UNDERWAY ON ARMED GROUPS AT NICARAGUAN BORDER

PA222007 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 22 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Armed groups which have not yet been identified have been sowing alarm along the Nicaragua border. The groups have engaged in pillage and committed murders, alarming the area's inhabitants. According to reports from Nicaragua, the Nicaraguan Government, along with Honduras, is taking the required steps [against them].

OFFICIAL SAYS SALVADORAN COUP WILL NOT AFFECT PEACE TALKS

PA221817 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 22 Oct 79 PA

[Text] The violent change in government in El Salvador will in no way affect the peace talks and the mediation agreement signed by the two countries, Honduran Foreign Minister Eliseo Perez Cadalso has said.

This has brought back peace of mind to large sectors of our country which felt that the change in government in the neighboring country could hinder the implementation of the mediation agreement and the peace talks currently underway.

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS CLAIM VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

PA211313 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1802 GMT 19 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 19 Oct (ACAN-EFE)--The Honduran Christian Democratic Party [PDCH], which has been rejected by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal as a new, legal political force in the country, announced today that it will lodge charges against the military government with the International Commission on Human Rights.

PDCH leader Hernan Corrales Padilla said that thousands of persons have been denied the right of suffrage because the PDCH has been prevented from registering. Corrales deplored the fact that the Supreme Electoral Tribunal--at the urging of the traditional National Party [PN]--has stifled the PDCH's participation in the general elections next year.

In order to block the PDCH's registration, the PN argued that the PDCH advocates violence, receives financing from abroad and committed legal errors when filing for registration. The allegations have been repeatedly denied by Christian Democrats, who have accused the PN of teaming up with the military government in order to control the upcoming elections. These elections will determine the nature of the civilian government that will replace the armed forces who have been ruling the country since 1972.

NICARAGUA

ROLE, DISTRIBUTION OF 1,000 CUBAN TEACHERS OUTLINED

PA192333 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 14 Oct 79 p 5 PA

[Text] One thousand Cuban teachers will arrive in Nicaragua in the next few days to work in education. The Cuban teachers will help fill the education gap inherited from Somozism. They will be paid by the Cuban Government and our government will provide them with food and lodging and 400 cordobas for expenses.

Deputy Education Minister Miguel de Castilla said the Cuban teachers are not coming to develop Cuban projects but to carry out Nicaraguan projects. He also said we have a duty to defend our revolution against counterrevolutionary rumors.

De Castilla met yesterday morning with regional directors, departmental directors, officials of the various ministries involved in the lodging and assignments of the Cuban teachers and representatives of the National Association of Nicaraguan Teachers (ANDEN) to announce the forthcoming arrival of the teachers.

De Castilla said that besides literacy work, the Cuban teachers will work during the day with the peasants and will be going to eat and sleep like the peasants do. He said they will be in Nicaragua for a 2-year period.

Dr Carlos Lugo, adviser of the Cuban Embassy, said it is an honor for the Cubans to come to Nicaragua to cooperate with the Nicaraguan revolution. He said the teachers are willing to stay as long as they are needed.

Of the 1,000 teachers, 801 have already been assigned on the basis of requests and the needs of each community, the school population of each place and based on towns of more than 500 residents and the settlements and divisions [fraccionamientos] of the Agrarian Reform Institute.

The teachers who have already been assigned are distributed in the following manner: 44 in Managua, 68 in Masaya and Carazo, 85 in Granada and Rivas and Rio San Juan, 147 in Leon and Chinandega, 74 in Boaco, Chontales and Rama, 157 in Matagalpa and Jinotega, 114 in Esteli, Madriz and Nueva Segovia and 112 in Zelaya Department.

The Cuban people's solidarity with the Nicaraguan people has been expressed through the sending of a medical brigade, daily food and now with 1,000 teachers who will come to work in the hard task of the literacy campaign.

LABOR LEADER ON 'UNJUST ARREST,' CONSTRUCTION SITUATION

PA192345 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 Oct 79 pp 1, 10 PA

[Text] Alejandro Solorzano Obregon, leader of the General Confederation of Independent Workers [CGTI] was released the same day that construction workers held a demonstration in Managua to demand his release.

Solorzano told a LA PRENSA newsman who interviewed him on Monday in the CGTI headquarters in Altagracia neighborhood, that his arrest was unjust and that there is a feeling of revenge among the group led by Domingo Vargas. Regarding the situation of the militant Union of Carpenters, Masons and Joiners (SCAAS), Solorzano said the only solution is that the Labor Ministry call a new assembly.

The labor leader said the warrant for his arrest was issued by Fidel Gonzalez, an old labor leader who worked for many years alongside Solorzano and who is now a military officer. He said several men in civilian clothes arrived at the CGTI headquarters and tried to take everything that was in the office, including furniture and documents. Solorzano said that since the workers opposed this, the men told him that he would be arrested if he did not turn over the property. "The workers told them to take me prisoner because I was not alone in the struggle," Solorzano said.

Asked about the labor situation in construction, Solorzano said there is very high and alarming unemployment and new job sources must be opened. He said that right now there are only about 300 employed construction workers. He said some 500 other construction workers are in the army, others have sought work in the coffee harvest or in other fields, but the majority are unemployed.

OFFICIAL DENIES LAND DISTRIBUTION RUMOR

PA192134 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 14 Oct 79 pp 2, 9 PA

[Letter from an official of Agrarian Reform Institute to Xavier Chamorro, director of LA PRENSA, dated 11 October 1979; capitalized passages indicate boldface in original]

[Text] Companero Director:

In the 6 October issue of the newspaper LA PRENSA which you head, there is a report on the statements made during the news conference held on 4 October by Jaime Wheelock Roman, companero minister of the Agrarian Reform Institute (INRA).

In that report, entitled "Problems and Advances of Agrarian Reform" there are two mentions of the concept of "DISTRIBUTION OF LANDS" which has never been mentioned and is in no way part of the social plans for agrarian reform in Nicaragua.

What Commander Wheelock said on that occasion concerning INRA is: "We have placed more than 1 million manzanas [of land] under direct administration. This represents almost 1,250 estates involved in different kinds of production." He later stated: "The agricultural worker will now be organized in state enterprises. His conditions of life, health education and so forth will be considerably enhanced. But above all, he will nolonger be exploited because within his organization he will have a direct participation in the administration of the estates. This is a qualitative change. Previously men were dominated by others and by the conditions of production. They were not familiar with machinery and knew nothing about factors of production or how to organize production. We are now going to show them all this. We are going to teach them to be administrators in the strictest sense of the word."

Companero Chamorro, after reading what was really said at the conference, you will understand how erroneous was the statement to which we refer.

Knowing the magnitude of guidance of LA PRENSA, we suggest that much care be taken with regard to those concepts, inorder not to distort the guidelines of our agrarian reform.

We are also aware of the possibility of reaffirming that which was published, which would be beneficial to our Nicaraguan brothers, under the title "INRA IS NOT DISTRIBUTING LAND."

[Signed] Juan Escobar Lopez of the Press and Publicity Office, Nicaraguan Agrarian Reform Institute.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION INSTITUTE CREATED, CHIEF NAMED

PA222246 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Oct 79 PA

[Text] In a news conference held this morning, revolutionary Commander Tomas Borge, minister of the interior, announced the creation of the Nicaraguan Public Administration Institute [Instituto Nicaraguense de Administracion Publica--INAP] to be headed by Companero Andres Perez.

According to the information released by Commander Borge, the INAP was created because of the changes that have occurred in public administration. It is designed to be responsive to the needs of our revolution. Therefore, he said, revolutionary and honest professionals will be appointed to administer public expenditures.

Commander Borge said the Interior Ministry created the INAP out of a desire to achieve a truly public administration and to permit aggressive and honest professionals who are currently employed in areas outside their fields to work in their professions. This measure, Borge said, is an attempt to purge the government of harmful elements who, from their posts, are sabotaging the revolution.

INTERIOR MINISTRY APPOINTS DEPARTMENTAL SUPERVISORS

PA222235 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Oct 79 PA

[Text] The Interior Ministry has appointed departmental supervisors who will perform the duties formerly assigned to political chiefs. According to Commander Borge, the political supervisors will be in charge of internal affairs in each department and will deal with matters not within the purview of the municipal reconstruction juntas.

So far, the following companeros have been appointed: Rene (Orue), Jesus Bisques, Franco Montealegre Calleja, Alejandro Brown, Francisco Montoya, Juan Matus and Javier Moncada, who will serve as supervisors for the departments of Carazo, Leon, Chinandega, Granada, Chontales, Matagalpa and Masaya, respectively.

Commander Borge added that the selection has been based on the political and moral honesty of each of the appointees, who will safeguard public order, pursue smugglers, regulate alcoholic beverages, attend meetings to select juries and carry out all activities required for the proper functioning of the communities.

CERO SAYS JUNTA RULES, BUT POWER RESTS WITH ARMY

PA191900 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0542 GMT 19 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 18 Oct (EFE)--Eden Pastora "Commander Cero," deputy interior minister of the Nicaraguan Junta of National Reconstruction, said here today that if necessary he will "beg Somoza on his knees" to return to his country in order to stand trial for his crimes. In an interview published by EL ESPACIO, a Bogota evening newspaper, Pastora asked Somoza to return. "I will ask him on my knees if necessary; I will kiss the ground; I ask him this because he must pay for all his crimes," he added.

Commander Cero thoroughly analyzed the work done by the Sandinist government which today marks the third month since General Somoza's overthrow and the national reconstruction junta's rule.

"The national reconstruction junta has stripped the tyrant and his family of 300,000 hectares and more than 50,000 head of cattle which they obtained by robbing the people," he explained.

He also said that the junta is working to make maximum improvements in the areas of education, medical assistance, nourishment and particularly housing.

Commander Cero told EL ESPACIO that "60 percent of the country had been destroyed, approximately 50,000 persons killed and a lot of blood shed."

Regarding the political prisoners, he affirmed that "their right to live has been respected. aturally many have been detained, but their situation will be defined in a few months. We are concerned over the fact that they are in the subhuman jails that Somoza built for us but a 30-million cordoba budget has already been allocated to build several prisons," he said.

Moreover, he noted that the "Simon Bolivar" brigade was expelled from Nicaragua because "we will not tolerate leftist or rightist extremists" and "because we will not allow 25 childish Colombians to teach us how to rule."

In explaining what occurred in his country, he also said that all revolutions are different and "Nicaragua could not be another Cuba. We also could not pay attention to them [the Cubans] when they were telling us to reject aid from the United States and other countries," he said. "Naturally, we do not commit or sell our revolution when we receive the aid, whatever its origin," Pastora noted.

He concluded by stating that the Sandinist army is not letting itself be manipulated by the Nicaraguan reconstruction junta "because while they rule, the power rests with the Sandinist army."

PCD CRITICIZES CDS, OTHER GOVERNMENT MEASURES

PA212345 Paris AFP in Spanish 1906 GMT 21 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 21 Oct (AFP)--The Democratic Conservative Party of Nicaragua (PCD) today criticized the Sandinist Defense Committees [CDS] operating throughout Nicaragua and said they threaten to become instruments of repugnant espionage. The PCD statement was made after the government extended the state of emergency for 30 days. The PCD said the granting of official functions to neighborhood committees, organized in all of Nicaragua's districts, has created repressive instruments against the people which it cannot accept.

The PCD criticized the fact that the committees have been given the right to grant visas to leave the country, issue license plates and driver's licenses and hand out jobs. The PCD also expressed its concern over the delay in organizing the council of state which should serve as the legislative body for the Sandinist government. It added that it regrets that in the confiscation of land within the agrarian reform process, many abuses have been committed which cannot be resolved because there is no right to appeal.

Finally, the PCD signed a petition initiated by the commercial sector which has asked for the passing, as soon as possible, of a law which, even within the state of emergency, would establish the climate of security essential for the development of civic and financial activities.

In another decree last night, the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction also extended the suspension of rights and guarantees. This prevents any legal action favoring the 7,500 Somozist prisoners awaiting trial and does not allow any appeal in the confiscation of property or real estate.

Meanwhile, Clemente Guido, one of the PCD leaders, said the Sandinist government is a democratic dictatorship. However, in order for it to be acceptable to all Nicaraguans, it must submit its mandate to a plebiscite. Guido criticized plans to create a single Sandinist party and single Sandinist labor central. He said this type of organization seeks only to eliminate the people's political and labor freedom and exist only in totalitarian regimes.

BRIEFS

U.S. COORDINATOR--David Funkhouser, national coordinator of the committees of solidarity with Nicaragua in the United States, is currently visiting Nicaragua. He brought valuable economic aid and a message of solidarity from the North American people with our revolution and the Sandinist National Liberation Front. [Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 14 Oct 79 p 10 PA]

COFFEE SALE TO SPAIN--The Government of National Reconstruction has signed a contract for the first large-scale sale of coffee from the 1979 harvest. The contract provides for the sale to Spain of up to 4,500 tons of coffee for a total of 200 million cordobas ($20 million). [Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Oct 79 PA]

SOVIET POLIO VACCINES--The Soviet Union has donated 350,000 doses of polio vaccine in lollipop form. They will be distributed in rural communities because they can be kept without refrigeration for 7 days. This is the first time the USSR has made this type of donation. [Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1900 GMT 19 Oct 79 PA]

HAVANA REPORTS ON ESTABLISHMENT OF USSR, NICARAGUA TIES

FL191135 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Oct 79 FL

[Text] Nicaragua and the Soviet Union last night established diplomatic relations at a brief ceremony held at the Government House in Managua.

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto and Soviet Ambassador to Mexico Yuriy Volskiy, who went to the Nicaraguan capital especially for the ceremony, signed the document which officially establishes relations and calls for the opening of embassies of the respective countries in Moscow and Managua.

D'Escoto described the official ceremony as the beginning of a deep process of rapprochement that will bring the two countries increasingly closer. Ambassador Volskiy, after congratulating the Nicaraguan Government and people for their victory, emphasized that his country wants the opening of embassies at the respective countries to be made as soon as possible. He announced that the Soviet Union is prepared to establish long-term agreements in the economic and technological fields.

CASTRO URGES UJC MEMBERS TO BE MORE DEMANDING, DETERMINED

FL221604 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 22 Oct 79 FL

[Text] Youth has to be more intransigent, more determined, more inflexible than anybody else in this struggle against all manifestations of weakness, accommodation and lack of austerity. With those terms Commander in Chief Fidel Castro defined our youth's task and attitude in today's world during the holding of the seventh plenum of the national committee of the Union of Young Communists [UJC].

In the meeting's resolution, published in today's edition of GRANMA, several portions of Fidel's observations are noted. These observations state that the degree of combativeness must be raised and should be one of the fundamental goals. Fidel indicated that youth must occupy a vanguard position in this task. He told the communist youths: We must wish that the masses, the militants become increasingly more demanding, and you must be so with respect to yourselves and others.

The resolution of the seventh UJC plenum states that Fidel's statements should be the cause for profound reflection and become the main guideline for the actions of all communist youths, leaders, organizations and agencies in their work. At the event the PCC first secretary referred to the growth of the UJC and noted that what must be guaranteed is that the massiveness be equal to the quality and not to an objective or goal or percentage. Likewise, he pointed out that more should be demanded from students because students are the ones who could deviate the most, the ones whose environment could plot against their formation, the tendency to become an intellectual, the tendency toward liberalism.

Fidel expressed the concern felt when he said: When a fraud is mentioned, it is said six were involved and three are communist militants. This causes great damage, he stressed. This is demoralizing. This damages our reputation. The commander in chief repeated before the seventh UJC plenum the importance for the ranks to grow mainly with working youths, but that does not mean that work with the student body has to be neglected. The resolution notes that this plenum is fully convinced that in the battle for demanding more and other tasks ordered by the party and Fidel, the UJC must occupy a vanguard position.

GRENADA

CATHOLIC PRELATE CRITICIZES CLOSING OF TORCHLIGHT

FL222014 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1930 GMT 22 Oct 79 FL

[Text] More criticisms of the closure of the TORCHLIGHT newspaper has been made. The lastest criticism has come from the Roman Catholic bishop of Grenada, Monsignor (Sidney Charles). The TORCHLIGHT was closed just over a week ago by the government. In a pastoral letter read in all Roman Catholic churches yesterday Bishop (Charles) said he wished to express concern about the closure of the paper. He added that the silencing of any newspaper in any country was always a matter of grave concern, but more so in the case of the TORCHLIGHT as he said it was without political affiliation.

The bishop has however welcomed the government's statement that it had no intention to assume ownership of the TORCHLIGHT and intended to reopen the paper soon. He also expressed the hope that under the new management structure the paper would in fact be free.

JAMAICA

GLEANER SCORES BISHOP FOR CLOSING TORCHLIGHT

FL182140 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 16 Oct 79 p 8 FL

[Unattributed commentary: "No, No, No, Mr Bishop"]

[Text] The new breed of Caribbean totalitarian dictators have begun to demonstrate openly their contempt for freedom of expression and hence the freedom of the press. Last month it was Mr. Burnham in Guyana who used the newsprint starvation device to close down the opposition newspaper THE MIRROR; now in Grenada, Mr. Bishop--an undisputed dictator--has closed down by order of his armed forces the independently-owned TORCHLIGHT which has been courageously trying to keep the spark of freedom alive in that one-party dictatorship.

The pattern used by Bishop is becoming familiar to us here and elsewhere. First the government harasses the newspaper by constantly accusing it of "destabilisation," of "conspiracy with the 'CIA'," of telling numerous "lies," then it insults its editor, and has him threatened, then it sends its goons to demonstrate against the newspaper outside its premises. And Bishop had added the next touches; people are sent inside the plant, and finally on October 13, the newspaper is ordered to discontinue.

And what was the TORCHLIGHT's crime? First the paper published a report on Bishop's training camp. "Horrible!" cried the dictator; "this is destroying national security! Bishop then flayed the paper because the publisher owns many of the shares, and because a sister newspaper in Trinidad, the Trinidad EXPRESS owns a sizeable quantity. To Bishop this was intolerable, for be it noted all totalitarians hate any medium which they do not own and control.

The immediate cause for the closedown was an interview the TORCHLIGHT published on Wednesday, October 10, with a Rasta leader--Ras Nang Nang--in which the Rasta complained that among other things promises made to the Rastas by Bishop in March at the time of the revolution were not being carried out. "Filthy lies" cried the dictator and his totalitarian cronies, thus denying in that act the right of this lone Rasta--if it were only his view--to have a view, and the right of the paper to publish that view. [paragraph continues]

Rastas in the pay of Bishop who disagreed with Ras Nang Nang were trotted out to 'prove' that the TORCHLIGHT had lied, and the paper was closed down because (according to one of the petty tyrants) " it is quite clear that the TORCHLIGHT is trying to stir up trouble in this particular news item which is totally untrue."

We regard this decision by the Bishop government as yet another demonstration of its determination to rule Grenada with the ironhand of a Fidel Castro. No dissenting opinion is to be allowed, and hence no challenge to their power. We deplore this stifling of the voice of the free press. It has added yet another shameful chapter to the recent history of Caribbean development.

It is unfortunate that there is no clause in the CARICOM agreements similar to that in the European Economic Community which insists in effect that members should be multi-party democracies, for if this were so, Biship and his tight little one-party dictatorship would have been expelled from the Caribbean community--as they deserve to be. Governments of the Caribbean which still believe in democracy--and hence freedom of expression--should let their voices be heard in condemnation of this latest violation of freedom of expression for we continue to be convinced that the vast majority of English speaking Caribbean peoples are lovers of freedom.

And we again implore our Caribbean leaders to adopt a Caribbean human rights charter with a human rights court which could monitor violations of human rights in the region. The Africans in the Organization of African Unity made the first move towards an African human rights charter in Monrovia in July. Why should we be dilatory in the Caribbean?

Finally, was it not ironical that the announcement of the close down of the newspaper was made on "Radio Free Grenada." What price freedom! No, No, Mr. Bishop! Stop bringing shame to the Caribbean!

MANLEY INVITES OPPOSITION TO DISCUSS POLITICAL TENSIONS

FL211405 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 17 Oct 79 pp 1, 15 FL

[Text] Prime Minister Michael Manley has invited the opposition JLP [Jamaica Labor Party] to meet with the government to discuss ways and means to "de-escalate mounting political tensions," following Monday's violence in which gunmen broke up a function to honour national hero Sir Alexander Bustamante.

In a news release yesterday the prime minister said he had written opposition leader Edward Seaga, saying that the cabinet had discussed, in a special meeting the undesirable state of tension and had concluded that "no good can come for the country if the present situation continues."

The following is the text of the prime minister's letter to the leader of the opposition:

"I will not attempt to discuss in this letter the question of what circumstances and actions led to the tragic and regretable disorder culminating in the cancellation of the cermony of dedication of the monument to Sir Alexander Bustamante, national hero. Whatever the causes may have been, we must all share a profound sense of shock that an occasion dedicated to the memory of a great Jamaican should have been marred in this way.

Escalation of Divisions

"Yesterday's events together with recent circumstances which have seen a marked, if not dangerous, escalation of political divisions in the society and leading to an entirely undesirable state of tensions were discussed by the cabinet in a special meeting this morning. It seems to us that no good can come for the country if the present situation continues. Among other things, it is important from the point of view of the general atmosphere of the society and feeling of security of its members that we should attempt to create a more normal atmosphere.

"We are, therefore, inviting representatives of the opposition to meet with representatives of the government to discuss the present situation and see what ways and means can be devised to de-escalate mounting political tensions.

"In view of the public importance of this matter, I am communicating this letter to the media."

At National Heroes Park in Kingston on Monday dozens of shots were fired from behind three cars which drove into a large group of JLP supporters who had marched to the function to dedicate a new monument to Sir Alexander.

The gunfire dispersed the marchers as well as guests and dignitaries gathered for the function. Later, two JLP supporters were shot on Charles Street as the marchers headed back to west Kingston.

The violence erupted minutes before the ceremony was scheduled to start when three cars, one of which was later identified as belonging to PNP MP for West Central St. Andrew, Mr. Carl Thompson, drove up. The three cars drove into the crowd and dozens of shots were fired dispersing the JLP supporters.

Two guns were recovered by the police from under one of the cars. A woman identified as Sonia Gonsales of a Mall Road address and who Mr. Thompson said was his secretary, was later held and removed by the police after she was reported to have been found standing on a loaded gun.

ST VINCENT

UPM CALLS FOR ELECTORAL REFORMS BEFORE NEXT POLL

FL222023 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1930 GMT 22 Oct 79 FL

[Text] St Vincent opposition United People's Movement, the UPM, has urged a series of electoral reforms in that country before next polling day constitutionally due between now and March 1980.

The UPM call came at a rally in the capital Kingstown after some 300 of the party's supporters marched in the streets carrying placards demanding proper registration of eligible voters and elections free from bribery and political violence. The party has also called for a supplementary voters list and the setting up of a commission comprising all political parties to appoint the supervisor of elections and the [word indistinct] officers for the island's next poll. The UPM leader (Renick Rolle) told the rally that the party was demanding that government take steps to have a supplementary voters list so that all persons 18 years and over whose names were not on the 1978 list would be registered before the election.

ARGENTINA

CRONICA PRESSROOM PERSONNEL RETURN TO WORK

PY190254 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0204 GMT 19 Oct 79 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Oct (NA)--According to one of their spokesmen, the press personnel of the morning edition of the newspaper CRONICA returned to work tonight in order to continue negotiations with their employers. The staff is seeking the rehiring of seven workers and a salary increase.

Press material was being processed normally, but the position that will definitely be adopted by the pressroom personnel who were holding a meeting inside the building just before midnight is unknown.

"We are expecting the newspaper to be out on the streets tomorrow, although we do not know at what time", the spokesman said.

COLOMBIA

CTC DENOUNCES PLOT TO ESTABLISH 'DICTATORSHIP'

PA210316 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0106 GMT 21 Oct 79 PA

[Text] Bogota, 20 Oct (EFE)--The powerful Confederation of Workers of Colombia [CTC] today denounced the existence of a plot aimed at establishing a "Chilean-style" military dictatorship in Colombia.

The CTC National Plenum held in Bogota also denounced the existence of an "acute economic, social and political crisis" in the country. It also noted that the national security statute has been applied with excess. The statute was implemented more than 1 year ago in order to curb urban violence.

The CTC said the country is split into two with one side trying to "impose another Chilean-style dictatorship on our fatherland." The CTC demanded that the government lift the state of siege which has been in effect in Colombia for more than 10 years.

ECUADOR

ATTEMPT TO KILL RULING PARTY LEADER BUCARAM REPORTED

PA221426 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 1255 GMT 22 Oct 79 PA

[Excerpt] The press has reported that someone tried to kill Assad Bucaram. The report says that a man identified as Ramon Cordero Calderon tried to shoot Bucaram, who is the top leader of the Concentration of Popular Forces [CFP] and president of the House of Representatives. The attempt was made on the ground floor of the building housing Bucaram's political headquarters on Boyaca Street between Sucre and Colon streets.

The report adds that the attempt occurred at approximately 1430 yesterday while Bucaram was coming down from his party headquarters after presiding over the meeting of the CFP National Command. Calderon attempted to shoot Bucaram but the pistol jammed. He was then arrested by Bucaram's companions and routinely turned over to the police.